



# Faces of Security Cooperation

## COL GAIL S. HALVORSEN

THE CANDY BOMBER (1948-1949)



Colonel Gail Halvorsen, retired U.S. Air Force, is recognized globally as “The Candy Bomber.” His actions as a Lieutenant in 1948 during the Berlin Airlift had a profound impact on the humanitarian doctrine we accept today.

## BIOGRAPHY

**Gail Seymour “Hal” Halvorsen was born in Temonton, Utah, in 1920.**

Halvorsen joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942, and trained on fighters with the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force. Halvorsen's professional career included various notable positions, and in 1970 he became the Commander of the 7350th Air Base Group at Tempelhof Central Airport, Germany.

He retired on August 31, 1974, having accumulated over 8,000 flying hours and 31 years of military service. He earned several awards during his career, including the Congressional Gold Medal and the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

On May 19, 2009, Halvorsen delivered the keynote address at the dedication of the Humanitarian Relief Corridor in the Pentagon.

## IMPACT AND LEGACY

**While flying supply missions during the Berlin Airlift, Halvorsen began air-dropping candy to German children. “Operation Little Vittles” dropped 250,000 parachutes and 23 tons of candy, bringing hope to a generation of children.**

During the Berlin Airlift, hundreds of U.S. planes flew into West Berlin daily, delivering over two million tons of food, coal, petrol, and candy. It was the first time the United States linked a support operation to a strategic and political objective. Since Halvorsen's retirement, the U.S. enacted several Title 10 Authorities for the DoD to transport donated humanitarian supplies and provide other humanitarian assistance engagements in foreign nations. The Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid Appropriation provides annual funds for DoD foreign humanitarian assistance to civilian populations.

## ABOUT “FACES OF SECURITY COOPERATION”

**September 1st, 2021 marks 50 years since the establishment of DSCA.**

In celebration of this milestone, DSCA is highlighting notable “Security Cooperators” who have served the Security Cooperation community over the past 50 years. These individuals, uniformed and civilian, all exemplify professionalism and public service, and embody DSCA's ethos of “security through global partnerships.”

“Faces of Security Cooperation” aims to provide a quick glance at the lives and legacies of those who have made impactful change in the history of Security Cooperation. From our past into our future, we honor those whose contributions have shaped DSCA into the agency we know today.